

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085382
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /021 R

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EB/FSE - R. HECKLINGER
-----096488 041423Z /47

R 032217Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 085382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, IT

SUBJECT: REFINERY FIRES

REF: ROME 04870, ROME 02134

DEPARTMENT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF OIL REFINERY FIRES AT TEXAS CITY, TEXAS AND CARSON, CALIFORNIA HAVE DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING:

1. FIRE AT TEXAS CITY, TEXAS OCCURRED IN THE LATE 1940'S AND WAS RELATED TO THE EXPLOSION OF A CARGO SHIP LOADED WITH LIQUID NITROGEN OR SULFUR. THE AREA OF TEXAS CITY HAD A HIGH PROPORTION OF OIL AND CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS NEAR THE SITE OF THE EXPLOSION. ANY REFINERY FIRE WAS SECONDARY, CAUSED BY THIS MISHAP. THE COAST GUARD CONDUCTED THE INVESTIGATION AND THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT PRODUCED, TOTALING 500 PAGES, IS BEING FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT. WILL POUCH COPY TO ROME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 2. FIRE AT CARSON, CALIFORNIA (EG. HANCOCK FIRE) OCCURRED IN THE LATE 1950'S. DEPARTMENT HAS CONTACTED CARSON, CALIFORNIA FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR DETAILS. EXPECT RESULT OF ANY INVESTIGATION TO BE IN THE FORM OF LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT.
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IFORNIA FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR DETAILS. EXPECT RESULT OF ANY INVESTIGATION TO BE IN THE FORM OF LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT.

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT RECORDS ARE LOST OR OTHERWISE UNOBTAINABLE. WE WILL KNOW MORE LATER THIS WEEK. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIRES, REFINERIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE085382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MFSTANLEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780145-0273
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780498/aaaadfnl.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3cca09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 4870, 78 ROME 2134
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3089908
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFINERY FIRES
TAGS: SWEL, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3cca09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014